

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend and cancel claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wine barrel comprising:

a rigid external frame having upper and lower substantially identical rigid ring ends and a plurality of substantially straight and rigid longitudinal connecting means wherein said upper and lower ring ends have a plurality of holes to receive said connecting means to create a rigid cage-like frame, the position and number of said holes and the number of said connecting means predetermined to establish the number of barrel sides;

a plurality of wooden side panels fitted ~~circumferentially~~ inwardly of said longitudinal connecting means in an abutting manner against said connecting means and against each other to form a multisided cylinder like structure into the inside area of wherein the ends of said cylinder like structure are exposed, and: said frame;

a plurality of wooden end panels butted against the said exposed ends of said cylinder like structure ~~wooden side panels~~ thereby providing a substantially leak-proof barrel; ~~and~~

~~wherein said upper and lower rigid ring ends have a plurality of holes to receive said connecting means, the position and number of said holes and the number of said connecting means and said side panels predetermined to establish the number of barrel sides.~~

2. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 1 wherein said wooden end panels have a plurality of holes corresponding in position and number with said plurality of holes in said upper and lower rigid ring ends.

3. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 1 wherein said wooden side panels press against each other and against said connecting means resulting in outward pressure against said connecting means thereby to provide a leak proof circumferential portion of said barrel.

4. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 1 wherein said connecting means are positioned in said holes of said rigid ring ends to withstand said outward pressure.

5. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 1 wherein said side panels are generally planar and replaceable and are reversible to present the unused side to the interior of said barrel.

6. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 1 wherein said rigid ring ends are generally circular rings and said frame is reusable for replacement of said side panels and said end panels.

7. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 6 wherein said rigid ring ends have a multisided configuration.

8. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 3 wherein said side panels are complementary and at least one of said side panels is wedge shaped effecting side pressure to an adjacent panel having an angular side during assembly.

9. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 1 wherein said connecting means are straight members with configuration taken from the group including multisided and circular.

10. (currently amended) A wine barrel comprising:

a plurality of longitudinal connecting members;

a pair of substantially identical generally circular rigid ring ends having holes for receiving and locating said plurality of longitudinal connecting members connected to form a rigid external frame;

wooden end panels having holes corresponding in position and number with said plurality of holes in said upper and lower rigid ring ends

wooden side panels fitted inwardly of said connecting members in an abutting manner against said connecting means and against each other to form a multisided cylinder like structure;
~~located circumferentially in the interior area of said frame;~~

said connecting members including means for interchangeably capturing and securing said wooden side panels; and

wherein during assembly said wooden end panels are positioned between said circular end rings and ends of said wooden side panels whereby in conjunction with said connecting members pressure is applied to the said ~~both~~ ends of said wooden side panels to create a liquid tight barrel.

11. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 10 wherein said wooden side panels are complementary and at least one component of said wooden side panels is wedge shaped providing side pressure to an adjacent wooden component side panel having an angular side to effect a liquid tight barrel.

12. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 10 wherein said wooden side panels and said wooden end panels are replaceable including reversible replacement to present the unused side to the interior of said barrel.

13. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 10 including gasket means interposed between said wooden end panels and said wooden side panels.

14. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 13 further including hardware means for assembling said frame, said wooden end panels, said gasket, and said wooden side panels to form a substantially liquid tight barrel and wherein said connecting means are straight rigid members

15. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 10 wherein the configuration of said connecting means is taken from the group including multisided and circular.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)